

February 20, 2011

To whom it may concern:

We are home owners on Lincoln Avenue and support the proposed traffic calming measure including a full roadblock to the campus from this sidestreet. While you will receive a myriad of complaints from commuters who use the residential street as a daily highway to their place of employment – and while the sheer quantity of residents on Lincoln Avenue cannot possibly compete with the quantity of those commuters – this is only proof positive as to the excessive use of Lincoln by thousands of commuters daily.

Please consider the following when making your decision:

1. The 300 block of Lincoln Avenue is absolutely inaccessible during student move-in, move-out and events including those hosted at the Mullins Center. During those periods, traffic is stopped bumper-to-bumper, with impatient motorists unwilling to yield to residents who must exit or enter their driveways for any reason. Residents become subjects for observation in their own home – living in a fishbowl amid tens of thousands of lookie-loos. Move-in and move-out periods confine residents to their home for days at a time while a slew of cars are gridlocked.
2. During move-in 2010, we were unable to pick-up our daughter from her first day of school because of the gridlock on our street. As a result, she was paged by the school admin and walked home. This is unacceptable given the fact that there are Level 3 sexual predators both in the neighborhood and on Lincoln Avenue. School bus service for non-elementary students has been refused due to the proximity.
3. Traffic is constant down the road at speeds that are unsafe for a non-commercially zoned neighborhood. This endangers the lives UMass students, bikers and young children who live here, play in their yard or wait for school busses.
4. Traffic rarely yields to cars backing out of driveways, but instead drivers honk horns at the inconvenience of braking. In the winter, cars have skid on ice prior to stopping due to their extreme speeds and lack of attentiveness. A neighbor's car was hit as a result.
5. I've witnessed innumerable drivers speeding down Lincoln Avenue or stopping prior to turning onto the street while looking down at their lap engroseed in texting instead of their surroundings. During the winter, when sidewalks are ice and streets are the preferred mode of pedestrian traffic, this is a deadly combination.
6. 'Sidewalks' on Lincoln Avenue are not maintained or up to safety standard. They are also only built on one side of the street, which means residents cross the street multiple times daily to get to the sidewalk across the street. Nearby official UMass entrances like University Avenue have been properly designed to safely handle the large volume and assortment of auto, bike and pedestrian traffic with broad bike paths, traffic lights and well-marked pedestrian crosswalks.
7. Joggers – including UMass track teams encompassing groups of 10 or more – depend on Lincoln Avenue daily. Not only do they put their lives on the line, but this causes cars to drive on the wrong side of the road on a routine basis. When doing so, those cars do not see me backing out of my driveway.

UMass will continue to expand during the coming decades. So the issue boils down to one question: what is a life worth?

Thank you for your efforts to protect public safety.